

The Government has no immigrant inspectors at the Soo, and thousands of this class of people are coming into the United States monthly at this point, and Uncle Sam has no means of knowing whether they are dangerous or not.

The Avalanche

O. PALMER, Publisher.
GRAYLING, MICHIGAN.

THE most turbulent member of the Topeka City Council is named Lull.

THERE are seven cotton-mills in Greece and grease is in every one of them.

MASSACHUSETTS has a third of all the cotton spindles in the United States. Perhaps this is why Boston abounds in spinsters.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., is shipping brandy by the ship-load to Europe. If Americans are sensible they will buy their cognac at first hands.

A PHILADELPHIA baker treats the conductor and passengers of a car that passes his shop at two o'clock every morning to a hot loaf of bread.

BURDIA is worshipped in Paris in various private temples, the devotees being chiefly Japanese, but many of them are Frenchmen and a few Englishmen.

MEXICO, one part, in ten parts of alcohol, makes a cooling and effectual solution for local relief of itching without eruptions and for the smarting irritation of insects.

AN Italian immigrant who landed in New York the other day was so overjoyed at reaching free America that he dropped upon his hands and knees and kissed the ground.

GERMAN professors and university authorities have a natural cause for their great dissatisfaction at the Kaiser's ridiculous advocacy of dueling in the large increase of duels.

ONE-fifth of the 1,000,000 families in France have no children. As many more have only one child, and of those who have as many as seven children the number is only 230,000.

A St. Louis medical journal has coined the word "hoehery" for the German professor's system of treatment. The St. Louis editor ought to be arrested for base coinage.

IF Connecticut doesn't hurry up and settle her political controversy, the hot-tom of things will fall out in that State. Already a mound twelve feet high has sunk out of sight at Bloomfield.

MEMBERS of the Weather Bureau should know that the oldest known journal of the weather was kept by one Walter Merle, a fellow of Merton College, Oxford, during A. D. 1337-44.

BALTIMORE claims a colored man over 117 years old who now devotes himself mainly to sleeping and who can be offered as a beautiful example of totalism both as regards alcohol and tobacco.

PEOPLE who think that Newfoundland hasn't the means to make war against England do not stop to think of the vast number of codfish balls which she will be able to fire at the red coats.

A LITTLE boy from North East, Md., while visiting his grandmother in Chester, fell asleep on the floor and rolled under the bed. Before he reappeared the police were scouring the town for a missing boy.

A GEORGIA woman has cut a tree from which he got two saw logs, each forty-feet long, and forty feet of the top of the tree was left after removing this section of ninety feet, making the tree 130 feet high.

A MEMBER of Parliament named Hunter proposes that the Scotch deer forests should be bought and turned into people's farms and pleasure grounds. The present rental of these areas is about £90,000 a year.

THE latest novelty in fashions, which closed it looks like a bud. When opened it resembles a full-blown rose, and as it is scented with the perfume of that flower, the illusion is complete.

BLACK ants are crowding the guests out of a Lexington (Mich.) hotel, and the proprietor advertises for an exterminator. One guest watched a solid procession of them a foot wide crawl up the side of the room for six consecutive hours.

DURING a heavy rainstorm in Indiana a mud turtle as large as a man's hand fell from the clouds near Crawfordsville. For an hour the reptile lay motionless as it stuned, then it began to crawl away, but it was captured and kept as a curiosity.

REMEDIES for relief of mosquito bites are so numerous that if one remembered them all he might try a different "cure" on every hummock. One of the last is plain soap—the latter allowed to dry on. Cheap and handy. Try it on, first chance you get.

IT seems that the Chinese preserved ginger of commerce is not ginger at all. The director of the botanical gardens at Hong Kong has succeeded in obtaining the flower of the plant used and has identified it as the *Alpinia Galanga*, though not ginger, it is very nice.

TWO PATULEMA, Cal., boys found a nest of two young foxes in the limb of a tree. There were four of the little creatures, and each boy took two of them home, where each happened to have a cat with a litter of kittens, and each pussy had adopted and is raising two foxes.

FOUR things need to be committed to memory to insure safety against our poison samnachs. First—The three-leaved ivy is dangerous. Second—The five-leaved is harmless. Third—The poison samnachs have white berries. Fourth—No red-berried samnach is poisonous.

SOME ingenuous prisoners in the jail at Marion, Ind., by means of a hose connected with the natural gas pipe, projected a flame against the inner side of the outer wall. When the stone was made red-hot, cold water was applied, and huge slices were peeled off until the wall was breached. None of them wanted to escape, and they explained

that the mischief was done to show the authorities how easily one could be planned.

WALT WHITMAN is now 72 years of age, hale and happy. May he live to grow still younger and sing many more jubilant chants? Whitman is the most American American living and he is intimate with the national sentiments and aspirations. The top of the morning of his birthday to him.

R. M. DUFFIELD, aged seventy, a mail carrier in Jackson County, West Virginia, claims to have walked 110,000 miles in the last ten years. He thinks no other man has done such an amount of walking. He is also a sort of expressman. A few weeks ago he carried a plow ten miles and on the next trip carried a small cookstove twenty-five miles.

WILDER, the Western humorist, says that in appreciating good jokes a crowd of newboys is the quickest and most intelligent he ever met. No point, get into or shade of inflection escapes these alert little nomads, while on the other hand many fashionable assemblages are chilly and unresponsive until you break the crust of reserve or indifference as it were with a sledge-hammer.

THE "angry tree," a woody plant, which grows from ten to twenty-five feet high, and was formerly supposed to exist only in Nevada, has recently been found both in Eastern California and in Arizona, says the Omaha Bee. It disturbed this peculiar tree shows every sign of vexation, even to ruffling up its leaves like the hair on an angry cat, and giving forth an unpleasant, sickening odor.

SEVERAL Chinamen were engaged in San Francisco to go to the fish canneries in Alaska, and were supplied with advance money and articles of clothing suited to the new climate. When the contractors "went for the heathen Chinese," to get them to go on board the waiting vessel, they learned that some of them had decamped, while most of them were enjoying themselves in a prolonged opium debauch, and refused to leave San Francisco.

THE uses of bells in places devoted to religious purposes is very ancient, dating many centuries before the Christian era. In China, long before the time of Christ, bells were hung at the temple gate and the worshipper on entering rung them to attract the attention of the deity he was about to honor. Bells were common in India at the time of Pliny, and it is believed that they came into Europe in the first or second century. They were first used on Christian churches A. D. 400, in Nola, Italy, not so much to give notice of the time of worship as from an idea that their music drove away evil spirits and protected the people of the parish from thunder and lightning.

AN army physician who sees a good deal of the diseases among the Indians of Northern California, finds them very susceptible to the pet disease of civilization—consumption. When the disease attacks a healthy, robust Indian he is seen actually to melt away under its influence, which is due in part at least to the fact that while the Indians have taken to their lot, food, and shelter of the whites and lost something of his natural hardiness to exposure, he adheres obstinately to certain habits, crowding in close apartments, going about in wet clothing, etc., which make him an easy victim. The mortality among infants is very large, and families are not seen with more than four children, some having but one or two. Rheumatism is crippling a great many. The one thing which they do seem to enjoy is immunity against trouble from poison oak, the stems of which they use in making baskets.

WHILE the remains of the old commander of the city of New York, whose people manifest no purpose speedily to complete their long promised monument, another majestic Western memorial of General Grant has been fittingly dedicated. H. H. Kohlstaad's generosity, patriotism and public spirit have given to Galena a superb statue of the great captain who went forth from that town in 1861 to inscribe his name on the scroll of fame, and representatives of the people of half a dozen Western States assembled to participate in the exercises attending the formal transfer of the monument to the municipality. The day, the crowd, the speakers were all that could be desired. The presence of Chanancy N. Depew, ex-Governor Hoard and others gave the affair more than a local significance and the honors shown to Mr. Kohlstaad no less than those paid to the memory of a national hero cannot fail to have an influence for good upon many thousands of Americans. With one such man as Mr. Kohlstaad in New York that imperial city would soon be relieved of the odium that must rest upon it so long as its oft repeated promise to provide a suitable tomb for Grant's ashes is unfulfilled.

Better Pick than Plaster.

Although Liszt is one of the gentlest memories the world has ever known, he could be severe at times, says Etelka Molosky in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. On one occasion a young man from Kassa, in Hungary, a town famous for its hams, applied to Liszt with a view of taking lessons from him. As was usual with him at such times he invited the young man to take a seat at the piano and play something. When he had finished the piece he waited for several moments to allow the abbe an opportunity of pronouncing judgment on his playing. At last the master, noting that the young man was waiting for him to speak, asked him where he was born and where he lived.

"In Kassa," replied the youth, with pardonable pride.

"Well," returned Liszt, "I can only say that I prefer the Kassa hams to the Kassa piano players."

A LITTLE innocent misunderstanding is sometimes very useful in helping one over a hard place. "Mabel," said the teacher, "you may spell kitten." "K-double-i-t-e-n." "Kitten has two 'i's, has it?" "Yes, ma'am, our kitten has."

NATURE'S BEAUTIES.

PLANTS THAT MAY BE USED TO ADORN THE GARDEN.

How to Grow Them—Some of the Varieties Which are Preferred for Home-Made Ponds, and How They Should be Cultivated.

The general title of water or aquatic plants covers some of the most interesting and beautiful members of the vegetable kingdom. For a long time they have been relegated to a partial obscurity, but recently, owing to the efforts of our most advanced horticulturists, they have been brought before the public eye through exhibitions; by being more liberally shown in our parks and public grounds, and, above all, by being introduced into the pleasure grounds of our wealthy citizens. In the City Hall Park they are to be seen now each summer, and the faded eye and wearied brain of the business man gets a short respite from worry as he looks at the graceful papyrus and gorgeous water lilies in the small pond at the corner of Broadway and Chambers street.

Crowds of people gaze rapturously at the small exhibit in Central Park and other parts of the city where they are grown. There are a great many not necessarily ornamental, but which are admirably adapted to the purpose for which they were created.

The structural formation of a lot of them excites admiration, and by studying them from this point of view we can duly appreciate the unapproachable harmony of nature, which gives to the oak and the vine the necessary rigidity to withstand the rude blasts which almost perpetually sweep the towering mountain side, which gives to the blooming palm the suppleness and tensile strength which allows it to bend without breaking before the titan force of the less frequent tropical storm; which places in sheltered nooks in the forest the delicate fern and modest violet, and which peoples our ponds, lakes, rivers, and seas with an infinite variety of plants both useful and ornamental.

She gives to these buoyancy and flexibility, enabling them to float and sway unharmed in the currents which would otherwise destroy them were they more rigid.



AT THE POND'S EDGE.

Otherwise destroy them were they more rigid. She gives color and beauty to what would otherwise be but an offensive marsh in many instances, and her wise economy utilizes river side and pond edge to grow plants which are of much use to man in many ways.

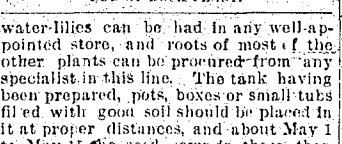
One great point in favor of the cultivation of these beautiful plants which could do to the world is an air of mystery about their development not to be found in connection with plants which grow on the earth's surface, and this is the reason why they cause many to shrink from attempting their cultivation; yet nothing is more simple.

Any one with a tank or pond, even a small one, can have a display of floating plants, and at least have some common water lilies and aquatic grasses. A gentleman of moderate means living in Flatbush shows the possibilities in this line by having a grand collection in the rear of his house which attracts hundreds of visitors each summer.

His tank is oval in shape, about 15 feet long by 8 feet wide, in which is a miniature boat, goldfish frogs, which cluster up on the water-lily leaves, and play tag for the delectation of the on-looker. White, blue, yellow and red water lilies, aquatic grasses, water-poppies, etc., affording him and his numerous visitors, a never-ending recreation. This is considered by many as the most beautiful and most useful of all the water-lily tanks, and it is well worth the labor to dig a hole a foot deep, cement to make it watertight and about \$5 worth of reed has given him more pleasure than twenty times the amount expended in the ordinary search after health-giving recreation.

One great point in favor of the cultivation of these plants which will appeal strongly to those who have to do their own gardening is that once planted they require little or no care; no pulling out of weeds or perpetual searching, no dragging of a water apparatus, no constant battling with industrious insects; they are entirely outside the many vexatious annoyances to be met with in ordinary gardening. It must not be underrated, of course, that they are capable of supplying the beds of plants which do so much to brighten up the lawn and small flower yard; but they are a pleasing distraction, and will repay the cost of their procurement.

Suffice it to say that seeds of all the



RED OF DECK LILY.

water-lilies can be had in any well-appointed store, and roots of most of the other plants can be procured from any specialist in this line. The tank having been prepared, pots, or small tubs filled with good soil should be placed in it at proper distances, and about May 1 to May 15 the seed sown in those, then covered with an inch or two of clean, coarse sand and sufficient water let in to just submerge them; as the plants develop more water should be added until the tank is full, and provision should be made to drain off the water whenever necessary; an overflow pipe should also be supplied, and occasionally a fresh supply of water should be added to prevent stagnation. As the surface of the water becomes filled with leaves, this will not be necessary, because the plants in growing keep down all scum and maintain a freshness in the water.

There are some insect parasites which prey on aquatic plants under the water, and some of these larvae settle on the leaves of the water-lilies; but fortunately they are easily combated. An abundance of goldfish in the tank will not only get rid of these, but will also help to keep the water clean. In addition to these some of the common spotted sunfish should be added, as they are voracious feeders and destroy any and all insects bold enough to make the tank their home.

The water lily, of course, occupies the most prominent place in flowering aquatic plants, and for general utility

the common water variety easily ranks first. Who that has ever caught a glimpse from a car window of a batch of these pretty white blossoms, with their golden-yellow centers, floating on the surface of some roadside pond, has failed to look back at them as they were whirled past, and felt a longing to linger at the risk of a wetting rather a handful of them? Or who that has been fortunate enough—particularly a woman—to be rowed through a mass of them can ever forget them. The grandest of all water lilies is the Victoria Regia, introduced from South America, and named in honor of Queen Victoria. For a long time it was supposed that this



LOTUS POND NEAR BORDENTOWN, N. J.

magnificent species could not be grown in the open air in our Northern latitudes, but recent experiments have demonstrated the falsity of this, as it has been grown to perfection for several seasons at Bordentown, N. J., and last year a fine specimen was successfully grown out at New Rochelle, N. Y.

The illustration, taken from a photograph, shows this variety in a pond in North Carolina, where it was grown by Dr. Babson, who is an enthusiast in the culture of aquatic plants. The leaves are from five to six feet in diameter, bristly green on the upper surface and deep purple underneath.

From the center stalk radiates strong nerves, which are connected transversely by lighter ones; all these are hollow and give strength and buoyancy to the great leaf. Around the edge is a beautiful fringe of long, thin, pointed, pendulous filaments or filled rim, from four to six inches long, so that the leaf is a floating dish, capable of bearing quite a weight. When the photograph was taken one of these leaves was occupied by a little white lotus, which was not over a month old. The flower, when it first opens, is pure white, over a foot in diameter, and so fragrant that it permeates the air for rods in its vicinity. As the flower ages the color deepens to a delicate red, then becoming more beautiful in its changes until it dies. A new variety of this, which has been lately introduced in which this coloring is more pronounced, changing to a deep crimson color, dazzling in its intensity.

Next in importance comes the lotus (*Nelumbium speciosum*), recalling as it does Egypt's sensuous queen and her band of sirens. This beautiful flower is interwoven with the history of Egypt from the earliest times and plays an important part in the mythology of that



A VICTORIA REGIA USED AS A BOAT.

country long before the Ptolemies ruled. It also enters into the mythology of India, China and Japan. Little wonder, then, that as the basinet among us gave on its robust yet gracefully languid green leaves and great rose-pink blossoms, a sense of dreamy rest over us and in fancy we hear liars keyed to love long voluptuous days and the rustle of silken sails as Cleopatra drifted lazily down the Nile to meet and enthrall Anthony.

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SYMPLEURA DEVONENSIS.

same class producing white and light-yellow blossoms. In a pond of general proportions an effect unequalled by anything in the floral line may be had by suspending incandescent electric lights over a mass of these, which will bring out their colors in their full brilliancy, and the enterprising gardener will attempt this will attract and hold many a guest who otherwise he would never see.

The most wonderful of all aquatic plants is not only a wonder among these, but is unquestionably alone in its strange formation, and deserves to rank first among the wonders of the vegetable kingdom. This is the duck plant, or pelican flower. So close is the resemblance to a duck that an amateur gunner might well be pardoned should he blunder away with both barrels upon catching sight of one of these wonderful flowers for the first time in some quiet nook. The "duck" when fully developed measures from fifteen to eighteen inches. It is attached to the plant by a good sized vine which joins the "duck" proper in the place answering to the back in the



LOTUS POND NEAR BORDENTOWN, N. J.

live bird. The impression created on looking at it is that the "duck" is engaged in a determined effort to swallow a large worm, and this heightens the natural effect. The color throughout is a light green, tinged with yellow. The open flower is a deep wine purple, mottled with creamy white, the center being an intense purple, soft as the finest velvet—a truly a rare species. *New York Herald.*

THEOSOPHY IN MISSOURI.

A Pair of Star-Gazers. Dilate on Love, Poetry, and the Teles Star.

He was an eavesdropper, but one upon whom the office had been thrust, says the Kansas City Star. He had secured himself in a corner of the vine-clad veranda a smoke the cigar of reflection when these theosophical lovers strolled out to sniff the evening air. They seated themselves on the topmost step, and while his arm encircled her waist, she remarked:

"I particularly love that star."

"Which one?"

"The outermost lower star of the 'tipple' bowl."

"A very natural preference."

"Why?"

"Two thousand years ago that was the north star," said he, "and doubtless in your life that you then lived you were wont to refer to it as you now refer to Polaris, the present north star. Who knows," continued he, "in his growing enthusiasm, 'but that you were an Egyptian trader, and that as your caravan wound its long-drawn way across the trackless desert you looked to that star for guidance, and that the habit thus formed has penetrated your present life in the form of



An indefinable presence."

"But where were you then?" she tremulously inquired, as she seized his disengaged hand, as being but a recent convert to the doctrine of Karma, and her feminine soul, with its pleasant dreams of wedding finery, suffering a slight shock at the thought of any condition in life in which there was neither prospect nor propriety of a husband figuring.

But the lover was now lost in the astronomer. He was a teacher, and true to his pedagogic instinct, he proceeded, while he looked reflectively toward the east:

"Yes, indeed, and in 12,000 years that star Lyra, in the constellation of the Harp, that you see just rising through the mists, will be the north star, for the earth's motions, you must know, are precisely like those of a top. It revolves on its axis, and at the same time this axis describes a wide circle of its own. It is in this latter motion that causes the change in the north star, since the orb so named is always the one toward which the earth's pole is pointing."

She sighed, and after a little pause said in a discouraged tone:

"I wonder what you and I will be doing when Lyra is the north star?"

Promptly the professor quoted:

"I was not with breeding on the years That second drew me, why I should When life is dark? Forthwith in other spheres"

"Poetry, and theosophic poetry at that," muttered the eavesdropper.

"This is too much."

There was a loud rustling among the vines. The professor's quotation ceased abruptly, and his arm took a more conventional posture.

Red veins in the face are natural to some people, and cannot be removed or prevented from coming. Veins of a bluish cast beneath the eyes indicate physical weakness, and are usually seen in people of delicate health. Large veins that are swollen when a person is in anger or exercising violently cannot be removed or prevented from showing. They are not harmful. They indicate more or less passion, and betray an earnest, sensitive nature.

"Scotland is plagued with mice," She should get upon the table and screech.

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Quaker Episodes and Thrilling Adventures Which Show that Truth is Stranger than Fiction.

THERE is a musical prodigy near Oak Grove, Schoolhouse, Forsyth County, Ga., who excels Blind Tom in his pianolike days. It is little Micajah Bagwell, the four-year old son of "Game" Bagwell, as he is called, and to say that he is prodigiously talented is mildly. This little fellow is only four years old, yet he frequently gets up before a single class and leads the music. He thoroughly understands the rudiments of music and sings any piece at sight. The most difficult music is plain to him. Some time ago a singing class was in session, and little Micajah and his father were present. The little fellow listened attentively, and his quick and sensitive ear soon discovered that the singing was out of tune. He stood it as long as possible, and then, jumping up, he waved his hand and led the singing in the most approved fashion, to the astonishment of all who were present. The child's voice is remarkably soft and sweet, and there is no doubt that he will be one of the famous singers of the country. He is perfectly entranced when anyone is playing the piano, but a false note puts him in a passion immediately. People who have seen and heard him declare that he is the most wonderful musical product of the age.

According to a La Farge (Ill.) dispatch, "Dora, the four-year-old daughter of Lincoln Hamilton, residing near this place, is a prodigy. She is able to readily name the spots on any set of dominoes by looking at the backs of them, or she will select from the set any number asked for, all the dominoes being turned face downward, and thoroughly shuffled. If one has been slipped out of the set without her knowledge, and it is called for, she will reply that the number is missing. The child cannot count from one to six, but will announce the spots thus: 'Two and a six,' 'six and a four,' or any other number more readily from the backs of the dominoes than from their faces. She has been subjected to hundreds of tests, and has never failed to call the right number. White paper has been pasted over the backs of the dominoes, but in every instance she has successfully indicated the number on the opposite side. Dora is equally proficient in naming the spots on playing cards, but calls them by colors, not knowing the terms 'spades,' 'king,' etc."

A CIRCUS case has been before the District Court of Minsk. A former student of Moscow University was accused of theft. He was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for three months. But as soon as the judge had pronounced his sentence the convict began abusing the court and the jury in the most offensive terms, because, as he thought, the verdict was too mild for the crime he had committed. He quoted law to show that he deserved to be sent to Siberia, not for the theft he had committed this time, but because he was a "recidivist," who had been found guilty of the same offense on a previous occasion. It was evident, then, that he had committed theft, not as a common thief, but for the purpose of being transported to Siberia. He was held for trial for contempt of court, and his motives in desiring to be transported to Siberia will be inquired into. It is supposed that he belongs to a political band, whose members have been sent to the "gold region" and that he has some object in view in desiring to join them.

This recent funeral of Mrs. Ellen Cleary in Philadelphia attracted a great crowd at the residence of the deceased, as well as along the streets over which the procession passed; between the house and church. The main cause of such interest was the immense size of the deceased, whose body weighed 670 pounds, while the coffin in which the body reposed weighed 310 pounds additional. Twelve stalwart men acted as pall-bearers, and a huge plank two feet wide was laid from the entrance of the second-story front room to the front stoop, along which the bier was carried, and on end twice before it could be got out of the room. The men had as much as they could do to lift it into the hearse, which was a large one procured in New York, and was drawn by four horses. The same hearse had been used on the occasion of the funeral of Daniel Cleary, the late husband of the dead woman, who also was of an enormous size, although not quite so large as his wife.

While Senator Quay and his family were at Seagovestown, Md., last summer they spent a good deal of time in the water, and during one of their family trips one of the Senator's daughters lost a handsome gold necklace. Every effort was made to recover the chain, which was highly esteemed as being a present from a dear friend. The other day one of the guests at the Springs was rowing over the same place, when he saw a sparkling object beneath the water that resembled somewhat the shape of the young man's necklace, and he made a long and deep dive to find and recover the treasure. He found it was the gold necklace of Miss Quay, lost over a year ago. It was in good condition and not tarnished in the least by its year of concealment in a bed of sand. The necklace was returned to the owner, and the finder received the thanks of the lady for his kindness.

A PICTURESQUE anecdote comes from Brussels illustrating the gentleness of a Frenchman of that city. The banker's friend of outdoor exercise. At an exhibition of his skill in skating he made his autograph on the ice in a very artistic manner. Some gentlemen having admired the signature, proceeded to write above it as follows: "On demand I promise to pay for the benefit of the poor the sum of 3,000 francs. They swarmed over the block of ice, and having called a hawk, proceeded to the bank and carried the frozen note of hand—of foot, we mean—to the cashier's counter. The cold temperature happily prevented the melting away of the icy draft, and the banker having been appealed to, ordered it to be paid.

At the corner of Thirty-ninth street and Ninth avenue, New York, a blind man named Peter Murphy keeps a fruit stand. Unlike many similarly afflicted, Peter works for his living and works hard as well. He is a neat, busy, and well-to-do man. There alone every morning, takes down the shutters, arranges his baskets and waits for his customers. He can tell any coin by feeling it, and bad money he seems to catch intuitively. His watch is without a crystal and he feels the time. He earns a fair living and says that at times he is almost happy. Before blindness came to him he was considered a politician, and even yet his favor is not despised by many of the local dignitaries, all of whom treat him with consideration.

Is the side show of the Forough circus, which exhibited at Detroit recently, is a snake charmer, and the principal pet is a boa constrictor eighteen feet long, called "Old Nick," on account of its wicked disposition. When the side show was over one night, Harry Prince, who has charge of the snakes, was left to replace them in their cage in the menagerie tent. Later a teamster heard a groan in the tent, and found Prince black in the face and nearly strangled with five coils of Old Nick around him. Cowboys were summoned from the big tent, who lassoed the boa. They released Prince after slashing the snake several times, and the "charmer" was restored to consciousness.

WILLIAM HARRIS, of Spring Hill, Penn., has a large brown bat, which he has trained to carry messages like a carrier pigeon. Yesterday Mr. Harris took the uncanny bird to his place of business in New Castle, and having made arrangements at home to note the exact time of its arrival, let it loose. The bat flew a mile in 27 1/2 seconds. When liberated the quickness with which it starts for its cage at home is something amazing. Mr. Harris will take the bat to Youngtown and try its homing powers from there. He is confident it will outstrip a homing pigeon.

It has been found impossible to maintain a water level in the Philadelphia Zoo. They would not bear restraint and did not take kindly to artificial hours. A constant watch was needed to prevent the animals escaping from the wire enclosure and cutting down the valuable trees in the vicinity. Lugs were laid beside the stream in the enclosure and one family partially constructed a house. Because it was finished, however, the entire colony died, and the attempt to cultivate the perverse animal was given up in disgust.

A SWARM of bees caused a temporary suspension of traffic on the Pennsylvania Railroad. While the freight train was passing the farm of M. K. Myton, above Huntingdon, Pa., a swarm settled in the cab of the engine, driving the engineer and fireman from their posts. After the train had been stopped, a long line of freight trains was kept waiting until the owner got the bees out. There were more than a bushel in the swarm.

How is this for a matrimonial advertisement? "A stamp collector, the possessor of a collection of 13,344 stamps, wishes to marry a lady who is an ardent collector. While the postage of the blue penny stamp of Mauritius, issued in 1847," It appears in the *Monitor* of the island of Mauritius, and the stamp which the young lady must possess is valued at about \$1,000 on account of its rarity.

A FLOATING rock is one of the wonders of Korea. It stands, or seems to stand, in front of the palace, erect in its honor. It is an irregular cube of great bulk. It appears to be resting on the ground, free from support on all sides, but strange to say, two men on opposite ends of a rope may pass it under the stone without encountering any obstacles whatever.

A CONTROVERSY upon the cruelty of firing horses has received an interesting contribution from Bombay. Horses and bullocks are fired there, it seems, but the practice is extended to the firing of babies as a cure for stomach ache. A certain village in the center of India was difficult to find, man, woman or child whose stomach was not scarred with fire marks.

In the town of Kallies, Pomerania, a great potato country, the entire population, of between three and four thousand, shut up their houses, leave the keys with the Mayor, and scatter all over Pomerania to the potato harvest, leaving the Mayor and Bellingher alone in charge of the town.

A CORRESPONDENT in Babilitz, Bohemia, writes to the *Viennese Deutsche Zeitung*: "In the neighborhood of Eule lives a woman who is 113 years old. She has been a pensioner for more than forty years, but still threads her needle without glasses, and takes an hour's walk to church."

WHOLESALE dealers in clothes have been reinforced by those in second-hand boots, shoes and hats. Those in boots and shoes repair what they buy from

A PETRIFIED GIRL.

Preservation of a Young Woman's Body in Indiana.

Mary Ann Grier disappeared from her father's home, two miles south of Watah, Ind., nearly forty years ago. A few days ago her body was recovered in an abandoned bog iron ore pit, without a vestige of change from the appearance it was in when she was a young girl. Her body was long ago destroyed, but the same chemicals which removed the garments preserved the flesh. Not only is the contour as perfect as in life, but even the color has remained unchanged. The hands are brown, and one of them still bears stains of the berries with which she was working on the afternoon of her disappearance.

The cheeks are slightly brown, but suffused with a ruddy flush, which old settlers here will remember as one of the girl's chief charms. Were it not for the insignificantly cavities that once contained the eyes, the petrified body, which has lain alone in the earth for nearly forty years, would appear as the peacefully sleeping figure of a healthy, handsome young woman.

When the body was found it was at first believed to be that of some woman recently murdered, but one of the discoverers struck the body with a knife and proved that it was stone. The father of the dead girl was the first to recognize her. He had always believed that she had run away from home with a young man named Whitesell, with whom she was in love, in face of the objections of her parents.

William H. Morrison, some-
better known by his title of "Hori-
tal Bill Morrison", who has been
Democrat ever since he was born, ta-
a very pessimistic view of the pros-
pects of his party in the West next
year. He says that no matter w-
either party does, about silver,
Democrats cannot carry a state w-
of the Mississippi river at the next
tional election. Mr. Morrison appe-
to know more about the political si-
uation than he did when he was pig-
ing his impracticable tariff bill.—
Leola Blade.

Some of the Farmers' Alliance county commissioner in Kentucky having issued an order that, in the assessment of property for taxation, horses in average townships shall be made to average \$18 a head, mules \$18 and cattle \$4.50. "In certain large towns horses and mules must be assessed at \$28 and cattle at \$8 a head. In the assessment of merchants' stock at an increase of 25 per cent was ordered upon the average amount of the previous year. This manner of decreeing the value of taxable property without reference to actual facts and differences reminds one of the peculiar political economy of Jack Cade. That aspiring third party man declared the "there shall be in England seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny, and the three-hooped pot shall have three hoops." The declaration that a mulch shall be worth \$28 in one town and \$18 in another, without reference to age, color, or previous condition of servitude, is on a par with this announcement of the coming king. — *New York Times*.

"With British tin and Welsh copper, our native industry helps to make the American tin plate," says a free trade contemporary. "British tin" is exported almost wholly to England from the Straits of Malacca, and is then imported to the United States cheaply as to England. It costs only 2 to 4 per cent. of tin plate balance being sheet iron or sheet steel, which we make or can make in tin quantities. But the "tin plate" has no hesitation in making a claim that Great Britain is a great manufacturing country, or using any deception to cry down the movement to establish an industry in America that will save us from paying £2,000,000 to \$300,000,000 annually to England for tin and tip manufactures.

The Bangor (Me.) Whig, in a timely article on the numerous democratic schemes for deceiving the public, says that "the poor man's blanket" is a veteran in the service of free trade orators and newspapers: It does duty on every occasion, and barrels of tears have been shed upon it in Congress and elsewhere daring, *Jo*, these many years. Every year the Government buys many thousand pairs of all-wool Mackinac blankets, 60 by 70 inches in size, and weighing 8 pounds to the pair. The quality of these blankets has steadily improved from year to year. In 1881, ten years ago, under the tariff of 1867, these blankets cost the government \$5.32 a pair. Last year, under the tariff of 1883, blankets of the same size and weight, but of better quality, cost \$3.36 a pair; this year the "McKinley price" of blankets of the same size and weight, but of still better quality, is \$3.31 a pair. So much for the "poor man's

NEWBURG, N. Y., June 20. — What a vast difference there is in the appearance of things at present throughout the goods districts of this State compared to what it was a year ago! Many stores of knit goods are steadily being emptied, and the buyers for their husbands at present is the only business which goods must be sold at. And great many knitting mills are running night and day and many more are running over time. The new two tier story addition to Dunn, Smith & Co.'s knitting mill at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., will be completed by August last, and will be the largest of the kind in the next. The productive capacity of these mills will then be double what it is at present. — *Trade Correspondent*.

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 Travel by cities, counties, towns and school districts of Michigan. Officers of these municipalities about to issue Bonds will find it to their advantage to apply to this bank. Blank Bonds and blanks for proceeding municipalities will be printed at nominal cost. All communications and inquiries will be promptly attended to. This bank pays 4 per cent. on deposits, compounded semi-annually.
 (March, 1891.)
 S. D. ELOWE, President.

ADVERTISERS or others who wish to examine this paper, or obtain estimates on advertising space when in Chicago, will find it on file at 45 to 49 Randolph St. **J. EDGAR THOMAS**

The Avalanche

O. PALMER, Publisher.

GRAYING. MICHIGAN.

HISTORICAL TREES.

THEY CONNECT THE PRESENT WITH THE PAST.

Creations Around Which Cling Many Tender Memories of Far-Off Colonial Times—Perishing or Gone, Their History Is Still Revered.

There have been no Methuselahs since the flood. Man's maximum in days is 120 years. Only the cedars and the tortoise feebly imitate the longevity of

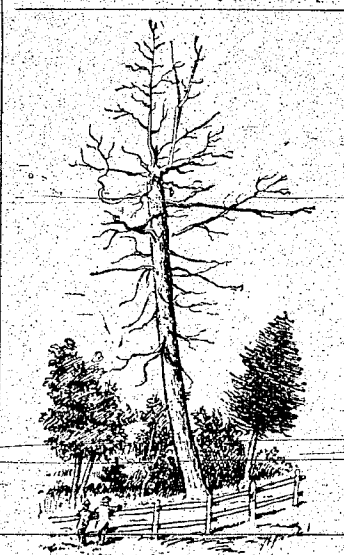
compact with the Indians. "I will not call you children," said Penn, addressing the Indians, "for parents sometimes chide their children too severely; nor



THE WASHINGTON ELM AT CAMBRIDGE.

brothers only, for brothers differ. The friendship between you and me will not compare to a cliff, for that may rain, might rust, or the falling tree might break. We are the same as if one man's body were to be divided into two parts; we are all one flesh and blood. Would that that sentiment had been preached and practiced elsewhere!

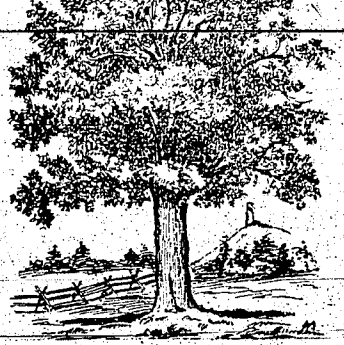
Until 1820 there stood in New York a venerable willow tree that has an interesting history. When the English poet, Pope, built his villa at Twickenham, he planted a small twig that a friend had sent him from Smyrna, and the little twig became the parent of all its kind—the sally, Babylonian, or Weeping Willow—in England and in the United States. One of the British officers who went to Boston in 1775 to crush the American rebellion had with him a twig from Pope's



THE BIG TREE.

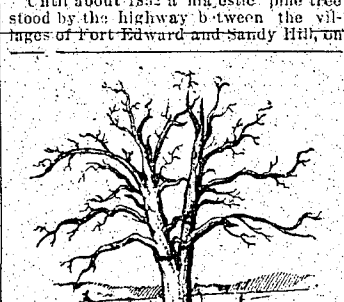
willow to plant in his American grounds. The twig was presented to Mr. Custer, Washington's stepson, and was planted at Abingdon, Virginia. In 1790 General Gates planted a shoot from the same tree on Manhattan Island, and it became in time a beautiful willow, the grandchild of Pope's willow at Twickenham.

When the battle of Bunker Hill was fought, the great conflict for American independence was begun. Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the continental forces, and on July 2, 1775, he took up his headquarters at Cambridge, Mass. On the following morning he proceeded to a great elm



THE CHARTER OAK.

Jerusalem? In our own country and our own time there have been and still are ancient trees intimately connected with our history as colonists and as a nation, and which command the reverence of every American heart.



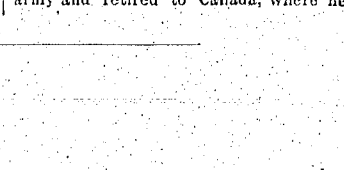
THE CHARTER OAK.

Probably the most ancient of these living links, connecting the present and the past, was the Big Tree that stood on the bank of the Genesee River, near the village of Genesee, N. Y. When the white man first saw it it was the patriarch of the Genesee Valley, and was so revered by the Senecas that they named their village "Big Tree." It also gave name to an eminent Seneca chief, who was the friend of Washington, and his countryman.



THE CHARTER OAK.

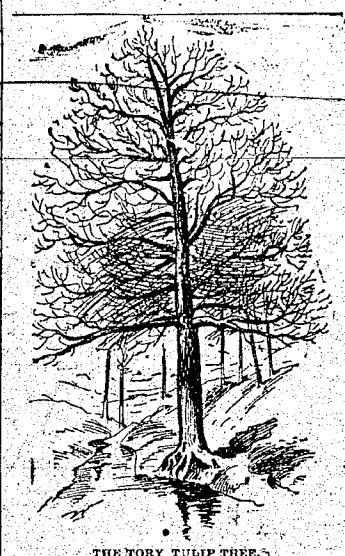
born the charter away and secreted it in a hollow of the old oak. When James II. was deposed and Andross banished from New England, the charter was taken from its hiding place and the government re-established under it. In this connection an interesting fact may be mentioned. Charles II. granted the charter that was concealed in the old oak and he himself hid in the hollow of an old oak in England after the battle of Worcester.



THE CHARTER OAK.

bewailed his betrothed's fate until the end of his life.

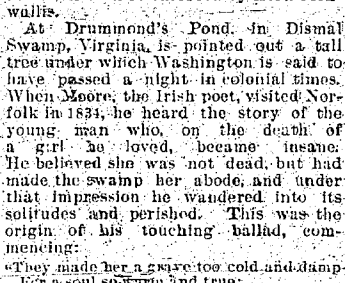
In 1779 Washington sent Gen. Wayne to the Indians, for parents sometimes chide their children too severely; nor



THE BIG TREE.

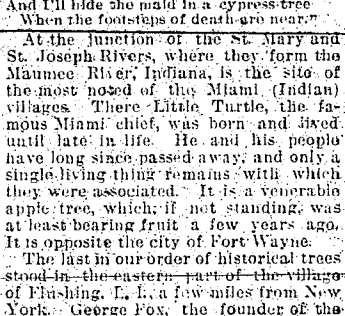
able, sycamores, trees, the only one left in that section of the State by the British when they evacuated it in October, 1779. Seacommet Channel was the scene of one of the most daring exploits of the war of independence. The British had blocked up with a floating battery, the Pigot, armed with twelve 8-pounders and ten swivels. Captain Silas Talbot undertook the capture of the Pigot. Embarking thirty men on the Hawk, a coasting schooner, armed, beside small arms, with only three 3-pounders, he sailed down under cover of darkness, grappled the enemy, boarded, drove the crew below, coiled the cables over the hatchway to secure his prisoners, and carried off his prize to Stonington.

In Charleston there stood until 1849 a beautiful magnolia tree, whose branches spread over more than 200 square feet. It was under this tree that Gen. Lincoln held a council in 1780 to determine whether Charleston, which was then besieged by Sir Henry Clinton, should be surrendered to the British army, which had then been re-enforced by Lord Cornwallis.



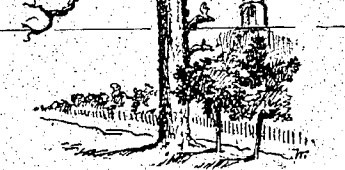
THE BIG TREE.

At Drummond's Pond, in Dismal Swamp, Virginia, is pointed out a tall tree under which Washington is said to have passed a night in colonial times.



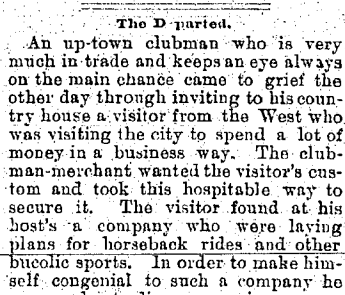
THE BIG TREE.

What a lifetime of emotion Balboa passed through in the short interval he occupied in reaching that solitary summit! As the horizon kept broadening and deepening the higher he ascended, he almost shrank from the final step which was to decide his fate. The blood coursed more rapidly through his veins, and his heart beat as down-sunk the eastern sky before his steadily-ascending footsteps, until at length it met a deep blue line. A sudden movement, a few hurried steps, and there lay the vast Pacific heaving calmly before him and losing itself in the distant horizon. One glance at his broad bosom—one look at the great islands and greener savannas and rushing streams at his feet, and he sunk on his knees and gave vent to his overpowering emotions in devout thanksgivings to his Maker.



THE BIG TREE.

Society of Friends preached under it in 1672, and afterward it was held in deep regard by the Quakers. It was a white oak.



THE BIG TREE.

An up-town clubman who is very much in trade and keeps an eye always on the main chance came to grief the other day through inviting to his country house a visitor from the West who was visiting the city to spend a lot of money in a business way. The clubman-merchant wanted the visitor's custom and took this hospitable way to secure it. The visitor found at his host's a company who were laying plans for horseback rides and other bucolic sports. In order to make himself congenial to such a company he appeared at dinner wearing spurs. His host's friends were unable to repress their amusement. This proved so embarrassing to the visitor that when soup was passed to him he upset it, spilling the scalding liquid in his lap. The mishap was too ludicrous to excite sympathy. Its reception in a spirit of levity decided him leave the table. Doing so in some haste, one of his spurs caught in the table-cloth, and in less time than it takes to tell it he had hauled the cloth off, dragging with it to the floor the soup of the guests and a jumble of cut glass, silverware, cutlery and other table appointments. The visitor did not stop to apologize. His room was handy, and before the debris could be removed the host and guests spied their Western friend, luggage in hand, had set back on his ears and his spurs flashing, bounding down the road toward the railway station. That was the last seen of him to date.

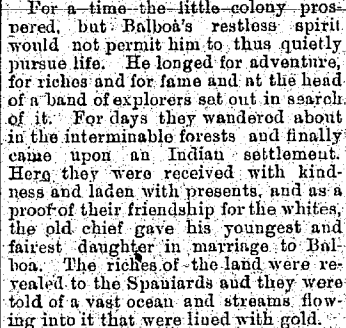


THE BIG TREE.

BALBOA.

Driven from Spain, He Discovers the Pacific and Wins Immortal Fame.

The career of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the intrepid Spanish explorer, whose discovery of the Pacific Ocean gave to his name a fame that is imperishable, has few parallels in history. Balboa was the son of a noble, though poor family. He grew up a reckless spendthrift, and early in life was obliged to flee from Spain to avoid imprisonment. With an expedition that had been fitted out to explore the then recently discovered new world he came to America and located on the Isthmus of Darien, where a colony was established. It did not take him long to find an excuse for creating trouble and inciting the colonists to rebellion. He overthrew the governor, imprisoned and later executed him, and then assumed authority himself.



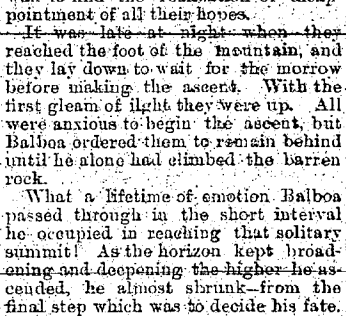
THE BIG TREE.

For a time the little colony prospered, but Balboa's restless spirit would not permit him to thus quietly pursue life. He longed for adventure, for riches and for fame and at the head of a band of explorers set out in search of it. For days they wandered about in the interminable forests and finally came upon an Indian settlement. Here they were received with kindness and laden with presents, and as a proof of their friendship for the whites, the old chief gave his youngest and fairest daughter in marriage to Balboa. The riches of the land were revealed to the Spaniards and they were told of a vast ocean and streams flowing into it that were lived with gold.



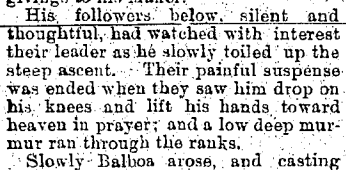
THE BIG TREE.

Determined to go in search of the great ocean, Balboa returned to Darien and began preparations for the journey. Weeks were consumed in trying to enlist men in the enterprise, but all but a few were afraid to undertake it. At last on the 1st of September, 1513, at the head of 190 men Balboa left Darien in search of the strange waters. Five days later he arrived at the province of his father-in-law, where he left half of his men and implored the aid of God, again started on the toilsome march. Through the woods matted with interlacing vines, up rocky ravines, and across rapid streams, though weighed down with their heavy armor and oppressed by a tropical sun, the adventurers toiled patiently on. Past Indian villages whose inhabitants they slaughtered and robbed, they



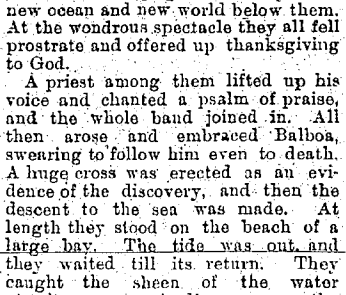
THE BIG TREE.

pressed on many halting dead on the way, and after many months they reached the very foot of the mountain which was to find the realization or disappointment of all their hopes.



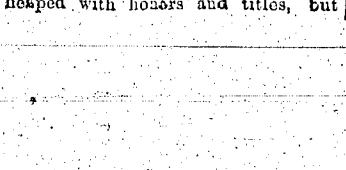
THE BIG TREE.

It was late at night when they reached the foot of the mountain, and they lay down to wait for the morning before making their ascent. With the first gleam of light they were startled to find the mountain before them was no longer a mountain, but a vast, level plain. Balboa ordered them to remain behind until he alone had climbed the barren rock.



THE BIG TREE.

What a lifetime of emotion Balboa passed through in the short interval he occupied in reaching that solitary summit! As the horizon kept broadening and deepening the higher he ascended, he almost shrank from the final step which was to decide his fate. The blood coursed more rapidly through his veins, and his heart beat as down-sunk the eastern sky before his steadily-ascending footsteps, until at length it met a deep blue line. A sudden movement, a few hurried steps, and there lay the vast Pacific heaving calmly before him and losing itself in the distant horizon. One glance at his broad bosom—one look at the great islands and greener savannas and rushing streams at his feet, and he sunk on his knees and gave vent to his overpowering emotions in devout thanksgivings to his Maker.



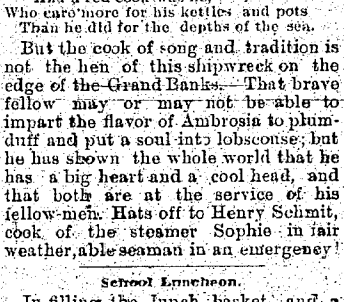
THE BIG TREE.

three years after his return he was charged with treason to the crown and was executed. The execution took place on the little island of Acla in 1517. Balboa was 41 years of age when he died.

THE GERMAN A HERO.

But the Italians Were Spiritless and Cowardly Wretches.

The recent experience of the steamship Sophie, Captain Von Hugo, shows of what contemptible stuff most of the Italians who come to America are made. The Sophie had just weathered a heavy gale, and her officers were still keeping anxious watch, when the morning light disclosed a bark near by in desperate peril, her masts gone, her decks awash, and her crew lashed to the mast. Captain Hugo determined to attempt a rescue. To the call for volunteers his four officers responded with a will; but not a single one of his crew of cowardly Italians could be induced to aid in saving the unfortunate mariners from certain death. Appeals, exhortations, threats, and promised rewards were alike futile; the miserable whelps would not stir. Not daring to leave his ship without an officer in the hands of the Italians, the brave Captain had determined to stand by and render such aid as further time might make possible, when up from the cook's galley, with his white cap and apron on, and his arms covered with flour to the elbow, came Henry Schmit, and coolly said he was willing to try his hand at an oar. The boat was manned, and in two trips between the little bark and the sinking bark fourteen lives were saved.

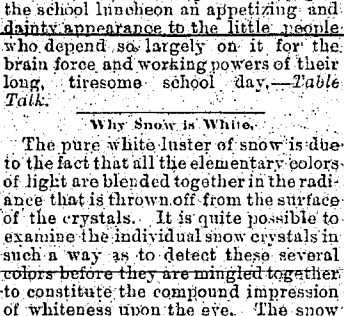


THE BIG TREE.

The ancient rhyme made everybody familiar with the cook: And a red cook was he, Who cared more for his kettles and pots Than he did for the depths of the sea. But the cook of song and tradition is not the hen of this shipwreck on the edge of the Grand Banks. That brave fellow may or may not be able to impart the flavor of Ambrosia to plum-duff and put a soul into lobsters; but he has shown the whole world that he has a big heart and a cool head, and that both are at the service of his fellow-men. Hats off to Henry Schmit, cook of the steamer Sophie in fair weather, able seaman in an emergency!

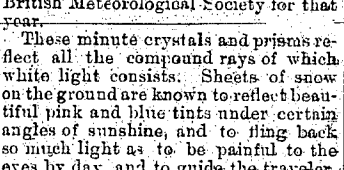
School Luncheon.

In filling the lunch basket, and a pretty one should be provided for every child, a clean napkin, a small knife, fork and spoon, with a little china or plastic cup, should be placed in the basket. The child should be taught to butter bread neatly, next a slice from the loaf part of a point, the fat and ragged edges trimmed away. Cakes and pies, folded in clean white paper, custards and jellies put in pretty cups. We were once much amused by hearing a grown woman, the mother of a family, whose fastidiousness had survived her childhood, in speaking of a former schoolmate, "Oh, she was the girl who always brought horrid chunks of bread and meat wrapped in brown paper, to school for lunch. She sat close to me, and the sight of it took my appetite for the contents of my own dainty basket. I do not wonder, notwithstanding her educational advantages, that she grew up coarse and unrefined." And indeed, such indifference on the part of a mother to the preparation of food to be eaten by a child is well calculated to produce such a result.



THE BIG TREE.

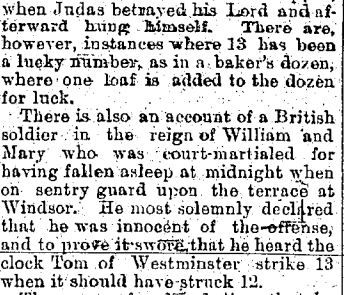
Mothers, then, who have the health and welfare of their children at heart, should do all that is possible to give the school luncheon an appetizing and dainty appearance to the little people who depend so largely on it for the main force and working powers of their long, tiresome school day.—Table Talk.



THE BIG TREE.

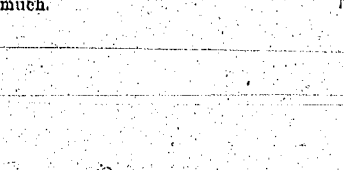
Why Snow is White.

The pure white luster of snow is due to the fact that all the elementary colors of light are blended together in the radiance that is thrown off from the surface of the crystals. It is quite possible to examine the individual snow crystals in such a way as to detect these several colors before they are mingled together to constitute the compound impression of whiteness upon the eye. The snow of Greenland with all the varied hues of the rainbow. The soft whiteness is due to the large quantity of air which is entangled among the frozen particles.



THE BIG TREE.

Snow is composed of a great number of minute crystals, explains London Tit-Bits. More than a thousand distinct forms of snow crystals have been enumerated by various observers. One hundred and fifty-one were noticed during eight days in February and March 1904 by Mr. Glazier, who was carefully drawn, engraved and printed in a paper attached to the report of the British Meteorological Society for that year.

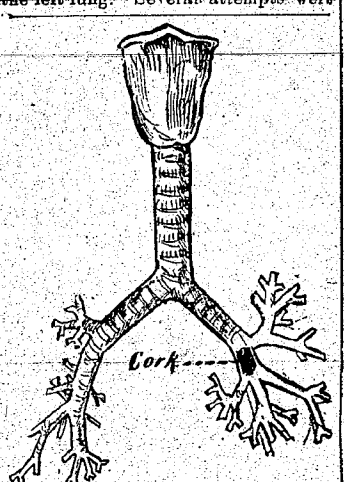


THE BIG TREE.

KILLED BY A CORK.

The Singular Accident that Cost a Minister His Life.

The Rev. Geo. W. Bothwell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., died from the effects of having accidentally inhaled a cork. The case became quickly celebrated, not because such accidents are rare, but because of the prominent position of the clergyman, and the efforts made by surgeons to save him. About to pour medicine from a bottle, he held the cork between his teeth, and being at the same time, made to laugh by the antics of his child, he took a quick, deep breath, and the cork went with the draught of air into the breathing tubes, and soon lodged as closely as in a bottle in one of the bronchial tubes leading to the middle portion of the left lung. Several attempts were

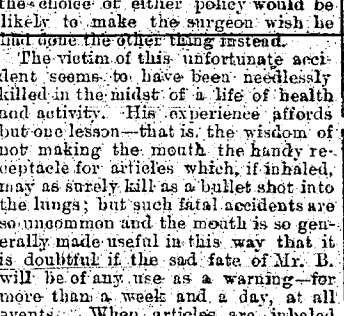


THE BIG TREE.

made by competent surgeons to dislodge the cork, and a special corkcrew instrument was devised for the purpose, but the cork was too firmly imbedded in the bronchial mucous membrane, and post-mortem showed that this membrane had become swollen all about the cork, so that its removal would have been impossible except very soon after its entrance. It position had been accurately located. Not being removed, the cork caused local inflammation, formation of pus, blood-poisoning, heart failure and death, after about fifteen days of patient and courageous suffering.

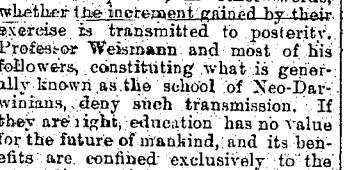
Foreign bodies, such as false teeth, bones, and coins, have in some cases remained hidden and quiet in the lungs for several years, and have suddenly and unexpectedly coughed up again. So it is often a serious question what to do to operate or let alone. A study of 636 cases shows death in 41 per cent. when no operation was performed, and in 23 per cent. after operation. In this case the result of non-interference might have been better, but probably would not have been because the cork so perfectly plugged a tube, and this became a very offensive for sign body.

A bullet shot into the soft lung tissue would be less aggravating than a cork thus situated. The location of the cork as found at the post-mortem examination is clearly shown in the accompanying illustration, which shows the cork in the soft lung tissue, the straight bronchial tube, and its tributaries and larger branches. The amount of breathing surface cut off by this plug could have been spared, but the danger of doing nothing to remove it lay in the inflammatory action it could excite. It was a case in which the choice of either policy would be likely to make the surgeon wish he had gone the other way instead.



THE BIG TREE.

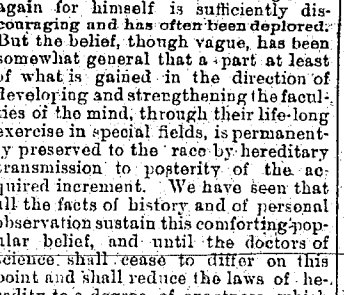
The victim of this unfortunate accident seems to have been needlessly killed in the midst of a life of health and activity. His experience affords but one lesson—that is, the wisdom of not making the mouth the handy receptacle for articles which, if inhaled, may as easily fall as a bullet shot into the lungs; but such fatal accidents are so uncommon and the mouth is so generally made useful in this way that it is doubtful if the sad fate of Mr. B. will be of any use as a warning for more than a week and a day, at all events. When articles are inhaled which do not fit the lung tubes so well as a cork, as collar buttons or tacks, attempts to get them out are sure operations are painful and tedious to both patient and surgeon, and one of the best things you can do with a button, a pin or a cork, is not to put it in your mouth.—Health Monthly.



THE BIG TREE.

Is Culture Hereditary?

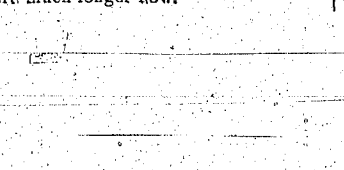
The whole point at issue is whether there is a causal relation between the cultivation of the mental faculties and their development; in other words, whether the increment gained by their exercise is transmitted to posterity. Professor Westmann and most of his followers, constituting what is generally known as the school of Nordmannians, deny such transmission. If they are right, education has no value for the future of mankind, and its benefits are confined exclusively to the generation receiving it. So far as the inculcation of the knowledge is concerned, this has always been admitted to be the case, and the fact that each new individual must begin at the beginning and acquire all knowledge over again for himself is sufficiently discouraging and has often been deplored. But the belief, though vague, has been somewhat general that a part at least of what is gained in the direction of developing and strengthening the faculties of the mind, through their lifelong exercise in special fields, is permanently preserved to the race by hereditary transmission to posterity of the acquired increment. We have seen that all the facts of history and of personal observation sustain this comforting popular belief, and until the doctors of science shall cease to differ on this point and shall reduce the laws of heredity to a degree of exactness which shall amount to something more like a demonstration than the current speculations, it may perhaps be as well to continue for a time to hug the delusion.



THE BIG TREE.

Depth of the Ocean.

The greatest depth of the ocean which has been ascertained by the sounding is five miles and a quarter (25,720 feet or 4,920 fathoms) and quite a mountain. Mount Everest, which measures 29,002 feet or five and a half miles high. The average depth between 60 degrees north and 60 degrees south is nearly three miles.

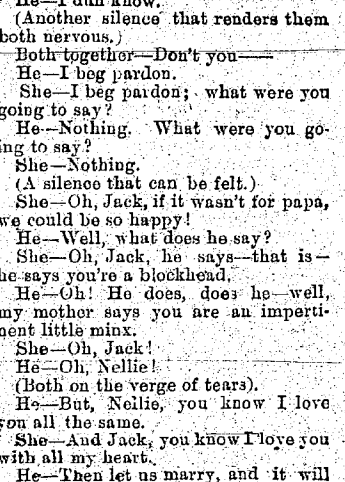


THE BIG TREE.

HUMOR.

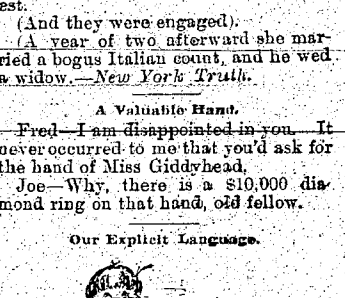
This Summer.

He—Are you fond of tennis, Nellie? She (brightening up)—Oh, yes! I—(A long silence) are you fond of rowing, Jack? He—Oh! yes. I think rowing awfully jolly! Don't you? She—I can't say. I don't know how to row. He—Oh! don't you? (Another painful silence.) She—I think the woods and the lake just lovely, Jack. It reminds me of Wordsworth's poetry. Doesn't it make you think of it? He—I never read Wordsworth, Nellie. Have you? Recite me some. She—Oh, Jack, I couldn't! But don't you like poetry?



THE BIG TREE.

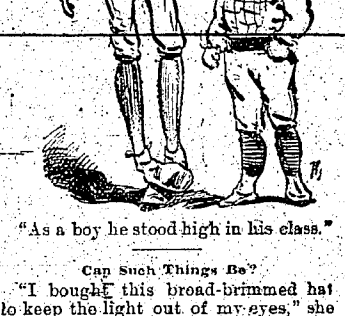
(Another silence that renders them both nervous.) Both together—Don't you? He—I beg pardon. She—I beg pardon; what were you going to say? He—Nothing. What were you going to say? She—Nothing. (A silence that can be felt.) He—Oh, Jack, if it wasn't for papa, we could be so happy! He—Well, what does he say? She—Oh, Jack, he says—that is—he says you're a blockhead. He—Oh! He does, does he—well, my mother says you are an impatient little minx. She—Oh, Jack! He—Oh, Nellie! (Both on the verge of tears.) He—But, Nellie, you know I love you all the same. She—And Jack, you know I love you with all my heart. He—Then let us marry, and it will be to later for them to interfere. She (of the frugal mind)—But on what, Jack? You are in college yet and I have nothing. He (bravely)—I have a stout heart and a strong right arm. She (settling voice)—Oh, beautiful! (Aloud) But that won't support us. He—If my arm can't do it then, it may now. (Slips it around her waist.) She—Oh, Jack, don't please, don't. He—No, I won't stop; as your affianced husband I am now going to take the first of many— She—What do you mean? He (kissing her)—Of these, dearest. (And they were engaged.)



THE BIG TREE.

A Valuable Hand.

Fred—I am disappointed in you. It never occurred to me that you'd ask for the hand of Miss Cladhead. Joe—Why, there is a \$10,000 diamond ring on that hand, old fellow.



THE BIG TREE.

Our Explicit Language.

"As a boy he stood high in his class."

Cap Such Things Be?

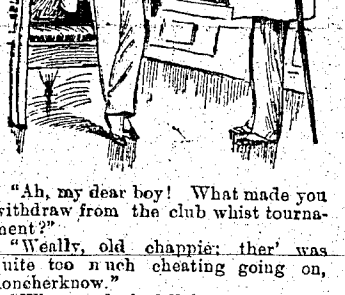
"I bought this broad-brimmed hat to keep the light out of my eyes," she said, confidently. "Nothing can do that," he answered, gallantly, and the world revolved on tem just as usual.



THE BIG TREE.

The Vital Question.

Jacques—It may seem presumptuous for me to ask for your hand; I know that I am poor in money, but I am very rich in love. Millicent—Yes, well, where can you hire a hat with that?



THE BIG TREE.

No Cause for Complaint.

"Ah, my dear boy! What made you withdraw from the club whist tournament?" "Well, old chap, there was quite too much cheating going on, don't you know?" "Why, me deah fellow, it's quite the usual thing in the Prince's set!" "Puck."



THE BIG TREE.

Derisive Battles of the World.

Of modern battles the following were very important in their results: The victory of the Americans over Burgoyne at Saratoga, 1777; the battle of Vainy, 1792, in which an invading army of Persians, Austrians and Hessians, under the command of the Duke of Brunswick, were defeated by the French under Dumouriez; the battle of Waterloo, 1815, in which the French, under Napoleon, were defeated by the allied armies of Russia, Austria, Prussia and England, under the Duke of Wellington; and the great naval battle of Trafalgar, on October 21, 1805, when the English under Lord Nelson defeated the French and Spanish. It destroyed the hopes of Napoleon as to a successful invasion of England. Lord Nelson was killed.

